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The skillful navigator, the mathematically trained statistician, is always on the lookout for the sea marks. In the Lexian Ratio and the Charlier Coefficient of Disturbance he recognizes a beacon light, often signalling 'Danger ahead.' He stops his engines. In case he does not possess the particular charts giving the exact location of the hidden reefs his prudence advises him to call a pilot to bring his ship safely into harbor. On the other hand, if he has reliable charts and knows his profession thoroughly he may venture forth and do his own piloting, by a study of the charts. It is to the study of such charts—i. e., a special study of the higher statistical characteristics—that we shall turn our attention in the second part of this treatise. The reader who has followed us up to this point may perhaps feel discouraged by realizing how little he has gained in knowledge after having learned a mass of technical detail and formulas. We can quite appreciate and understand this feeling. So far, he has perhaps chiefly been impressed by the treacherous and misleading character of statistical mass phenomena, but to recognize a danger signal and thus avoid the pitfalls is one of the fundamental essentials in safe navigation in statistical research."

The typography of the book is excellent and the style also generally idiomatic, though occasionally there is evidence that the author wrote originally in Danish, and that in the translation an occasional slip has been made which will interest and not confuse the reader.

EDWIN BIDWELL WILSON.

*Massachusetts Institute of Technology.*

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### THE MEMORIAL VOLUME.

The delay in publishing the *Memorial Volume* of the American Statistical Association requires some explanation.

Prior to the outbreak of the Great War a number of articles on the History and Organization of Official Statistics in various countries had been received, but some of the most important essays were still missing. Those on Russian, German and Swedish Statistics have been finished during the war.

At the present time there are at hand and in page-proof articles on the official statistics of the following countries: Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Germany, Great Britain (including Ireland), Holland, Hungary, India, Norway, Russia, Sweden, and the United States.

Many difficulties have prevented the completion of the French, Italian, and Japanese studies. That a country so important statistically as well as in other respects as France, for instance, could not be omitted from our volume without seriously marring an important piece of work goes almost without saying. The alternative of printing these delayed articles in our regular QUARTERLY PUBLICATIONS did not appeal to the committee, and it has therefore been resolved to postpone publication until at least the promised study of French official statistics shall have been completed. And reason-

able assurance can now be given that this article will be finished within a few months as it has been possible to interest the French government in our plan. It is also confidently hoped that the delay will enable us to include an article on Japanese and probably one on Italian statistics.

We therefore reckon upon a volume in which practically all the important countries of the world will be represented through studies prepared for it by the foremost statisticians in each. Fortunately the delay does not age the material. It will be just as fresh and valuable as if it had been issued at the time first projected and worthy not only of our Association but of the science of statistics. It has required a large amount of labor, patience, and persistence to bring the volume up to its present state of completion. To forego the ideal set at the time the collection of the material was first undertaken merely for the sake of gaining a few months of time would certainly tend to spoil what we believe now promises to be a reasonably perfect piece of work.

As soon as practicable, members of the Association will be notified of the probable date of publication and of the conditions upon which it may be obtained.

JOHN KOREN,  
*For the Committee in Charge.*